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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Department review completed

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S U M M A R Y**GENERAL**

1. British worried about Near Eastern reaction to Soviet notes on Middle East Command (page 3).

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WESTERN EUROPE

5. British official hints review of Chinese recognition policy (page 5).

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GENERAL

1. British worried about Near Eastern reaction to Soviet notes on Middle East Command:

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The British Foreign Office is concerned over the probable effects of the Soviet notes on the establishment of a Middle East Command and is

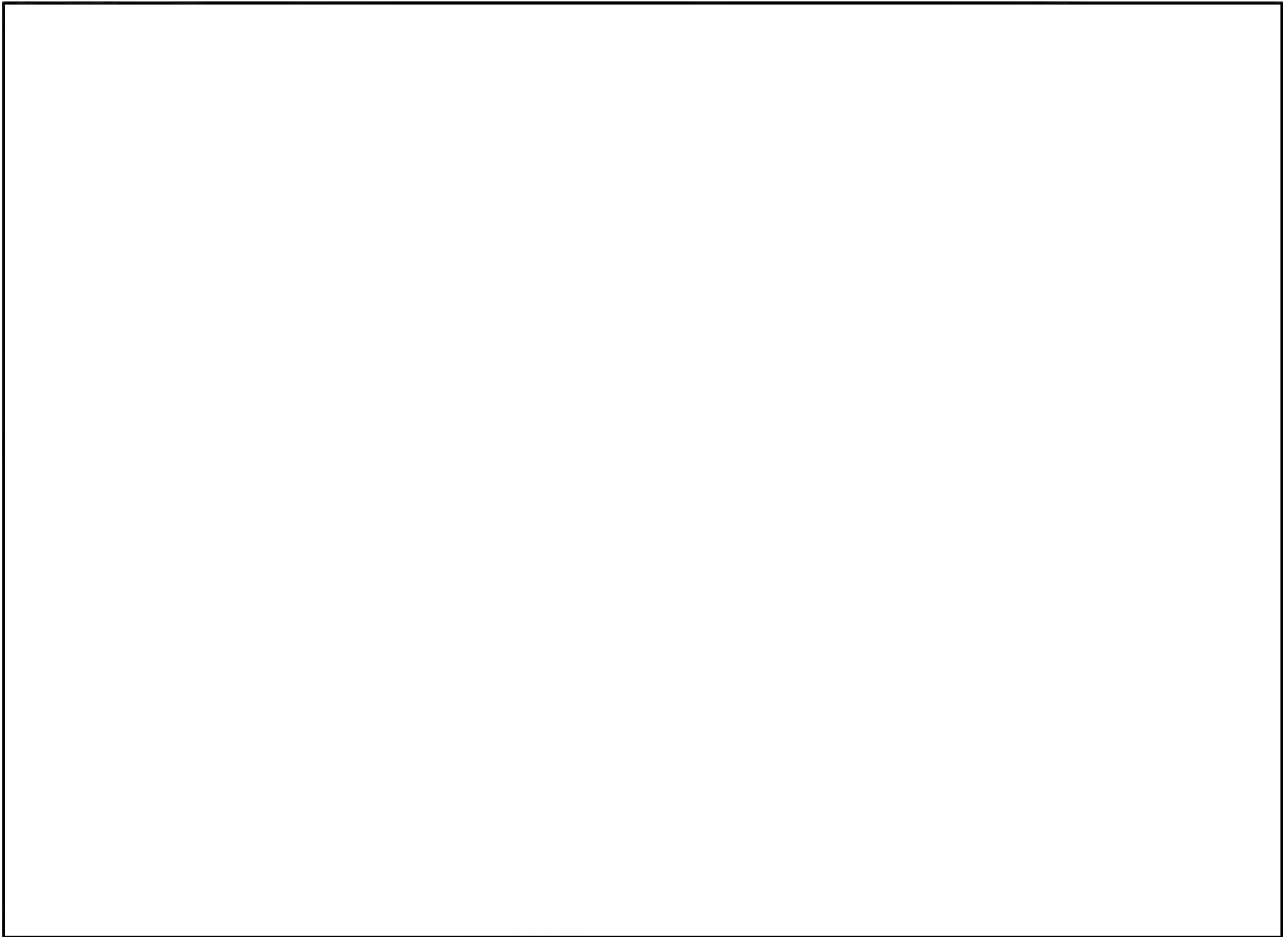
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The Foreign Office sees no indication that the USSR actually thinks it is being threatened by the Middle East Command, although Britain regards the Near East as the area where establishment of military bases is most likely to be viewed as provocative.

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WESTERN EUROPE

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5. British official hints review of Chinese recognition policy:

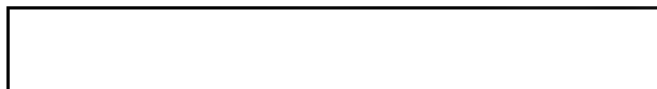


The British Foreign Office states that a remark credited to Colonial Secretary Lyttelton in Singapore to the effect that the Conservative government might review the question of the continued recognition of Communist China was made without prior Cabinet clearance. Foreign Office sources thought the matter would have to be referred to Prime Minister Churchill.

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Comment: A general review of the elements of British Far Eastern policy would be normal procedure for a new government in Britain. Although there is some evidence that the Churchill government wishes to reconsider certain aspects of British policy and tactics in the Far East, the conviction that the Communist regime in China should not be regarded as indissolubly tied to the USSR appears still dominant in official circles.

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